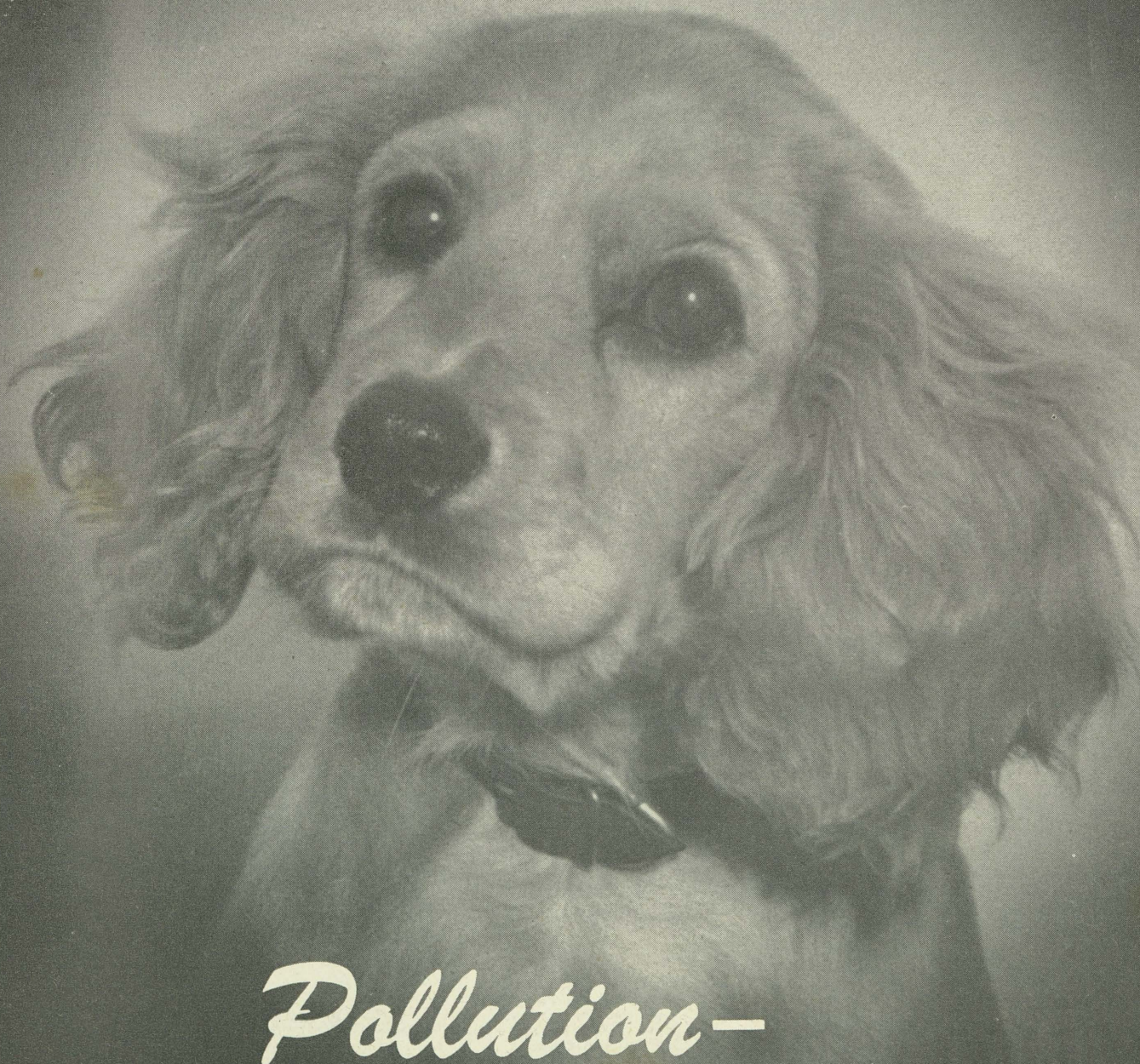


Florida
WILDLIFE

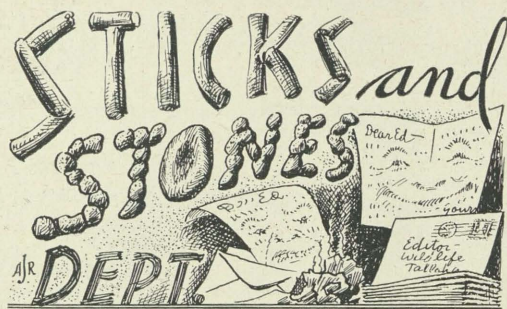


PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

FEBRUARY, 1948



Pollution—
FLORIDA'S FIFTH COLUMN
by DAVID B. LEE



VOL. 1, NO. 9

Florida
WILDLIFE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

FEBRUARY, 1948

For the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,
of Our Game and Fish

NEW COLUMN WANTED

Dear Sir:

Perhaps this question has been brought up once or many times before, but here goes again. Please explain why there is no question and answer column in FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

Gil "Snake Truth" Turner—Silver Springs

(The idea is a good one. However, right now we are cramped for space and have no funds for expanding the magazine. When we do expand we probably will institute a question and answer department.—Ed.)

DON'T ROCK THE BOAT

Dear Sir:

You write a lot about how and where to fish but never mention safeguarding life while fishing.

While fishing in Lake Panasoffkee I passed a boat in mid-lake that contained a man, his wife and four small children. The children were all so small that I am positive they couldn't swim. Yet, the parents had no life preservers in the boat or anything else that would float if the boat overturned. Don't you think this was a foolish thing to do?

Be smart and always carry a cushion that will float. It will make sitting easy—save wear and tear on the pants—and it might save your life.

Dr. W. Alston Brown—Sulphur Springs

OOPS! OUR ERROR!

Dear Sir:

Have you seen a map of Florida lately? In a recent edition of FLORIDA WILDLIFE you advised fishermen to take a trip to "Okaloosa County's historic river, the Choctawhatchee." We fear that the citizens of Holmes, Walton and Washington counties are going to have a time for themselves if they go to Okaloosa county looking for their river.

A Citizen of Holmes County

(Thanks for the tip. We have accordingly given a failing geography grade to the fishing editor. The next time it happens we'll rap him on the knuckles with a ruler.—Ed.)

The Cover { "PORTRAIT OF
A POOCH"

By Charles H. Anderson

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

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Contributions are welcomed, and all photographs will be returned after use. Manuscripts, news notes, and photographs should be addressed to Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Any changes of address should be reported promptly.

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Unknown to many, Florida
faces a danger as powerful
and insidious as any fifth
column—stream pollution!

Photos by Ruth Stuart Allen

The scum in the foreground of this Polk County pond is a mass of rotting scraps and hair, discharged from a nearby tannery.

Pollution-Florida's Fifth Column

ALTHOUGH water pollution has become a health, economic and welfare hazard in Florida, it has excited nothing more than a lot of talk and little action. strangely enough, stream pollution follows hand in hand with a state or nation's progress. Here in Florida, our almost unbelievable population increase along with an unprecedented industrial growth resulted in making the use of water an increasingly greater necessity and gradually increased pollution in our streams because of the increased wastes caused by our progress.

Today, our public drinking waters are becoming grossly polluted, our recreational facilities (fishing, swimming, boating) are being damaged and diminished and our shellfish-growing areas are slowly but surely being eliminated.

Thus far, we haven't really scratched the surface with a stream pollution abatement program. And, unless we do adopt a strong, efficient and workable plan—unless we start returning our streams to a condition

by David B. Lee

Chief Sanitary Engineer, State Board of Health

that they may again be of use to the general welfare of all the people—then I predict that Florida is headed toward terrifying epidemics that will ruin her commercial aspects and kill her place in the sun as a famous tourist haven—and

this will happen within the next decade unless we do something about it NOW!

Florida's pollution very definitely is in the "orphan" class—since none of the offenders are willing to accept even partial responsibility for its presence.

"Industry is responsible for contaminating our streams," is the accusing scream of scores of municipalities with weak sewage disposal plants and weaker finances.

"The municipality, and not industry, is responsible," the manufacturers insist.

"It's the municipalities and industries," exclaim the farmers who are guilty of the overgrazing of grass lands and the misuse of cultivated areas that have resulted in rapid soil erosion and consequent heavy siltation of some



This broken tile is vomiting out filth from an overloaded sewage plant in Central Florida. Eventually the outflow enters a stream that is used for drinking water.

of our finest and most productive streams.

Meanwhile, pollution in Florida increases practically unabated.

True enough, we have studied the distasteful situation throughout the length and breadth of our State—but ultimate abatement is a matter involving the spending of many millions of dollars along with years of tireless research and effort. At least, our studies have conclusively demonstrated that many diversified interests, elements and factors are involved in the entire unsavory situation.

Despite the fact that pollutants of many kinds are poured into our waters, there are three major sources that cause most of the trouble and have been responsible for the destruction of the productivity of many Florida waters. They are as follows:

INDUSTRIAL WASTES. Industrial wastes, usually are chemical in nature and originate from a great variety of industries. They may be active toxic poisons that kill life directly or affect the growth of basic food forms that are essential to fish and other valuable aquatic life.

DOMESTIC WASTES. Domestic wastes, in the form of sewage, constitute another chief source of pollution. They cause deep concern to public health officials and often become an equally great concern to those interested in maintaining the productivity of water.

SILT. The misuse of cultivated areas and overgrazing of grass lands have resulted in rapid soil erosion and subsequent heavy siltation of many fine streams.



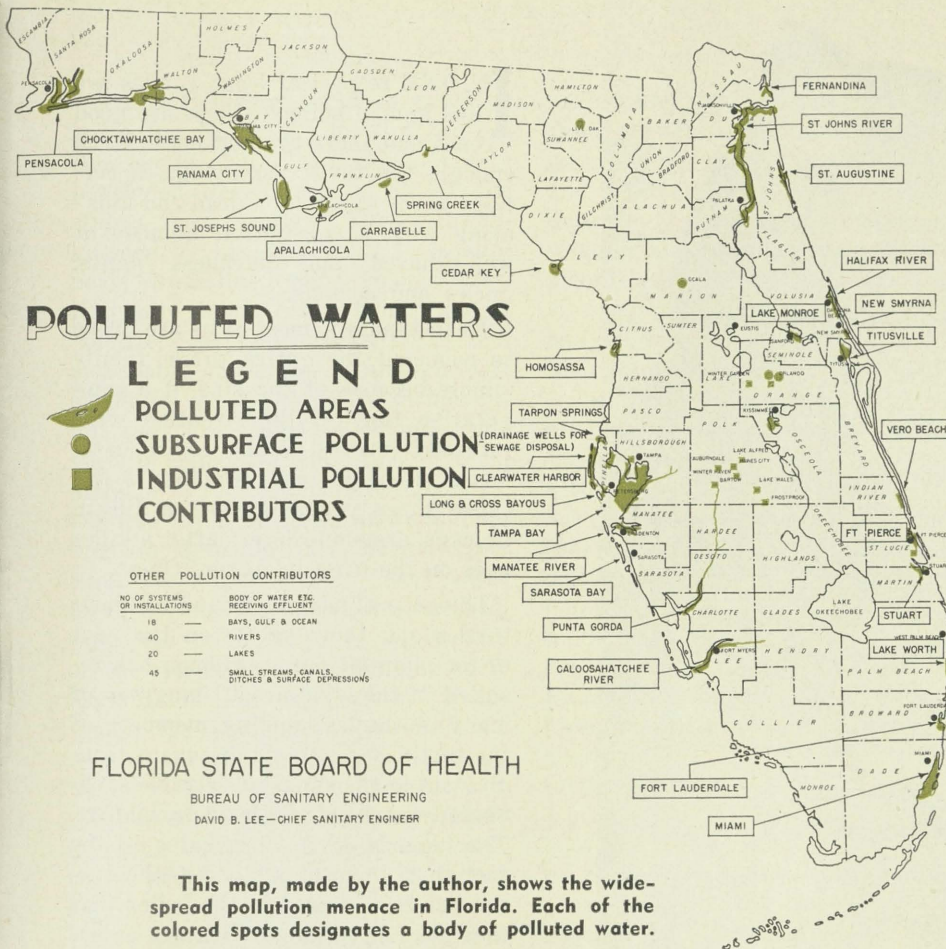
Raw sewage is spilling from this outfall into fresh water in the midst of a residential section of one of Florida's prominent cities.

However, through organized soil conservation districts, this is a problem that eventually probably can be placed under control—although silt still remains one of our important sources of pollution.

It is unfortunate that in many instances pollution remains unchecked and continues increasing at an alarming rate because the interests of industry and municipalities are opposed to each other and to other industries and municipalities. Often times, the same body of water serves as a source of public and industrial water supply and waste for disposal of other communities. Then too, the interests of the recreationist, the sportsman and the wildlife conservationist usually conflict with the needs of industry, agriculture and municipalities.

In reconciling these conflicting interests, and in "keeping peace in the family," it is necessary to keep sight of certain paramount considerations. A program for relieving pollution must not injure industry since industry is the life blood of our entire economic system and affects us all. Agricultural interests must be preserved because we have not yet arrived at the point where vitamin pills will sustain life. Of highest importance too are the creative needs of the human and animal population of Florida. Obviously, water will have to be obtained from rivers and streams or from the ground. Nowhere will the supply be adequate unless each water user considers or is compelled to consider the equally important interest of water supply, recreation, industry and agriculture.

It is up to all of us to realize that drinking water



the wrong end of a telescope. Unless our senses are disturbed, neither individuals nor communities rise to combat something vague which can be "put off until tomorrow." Meanwhile, municipalities and industry move closer and closer to the complete contamination of our greatest natural resource.

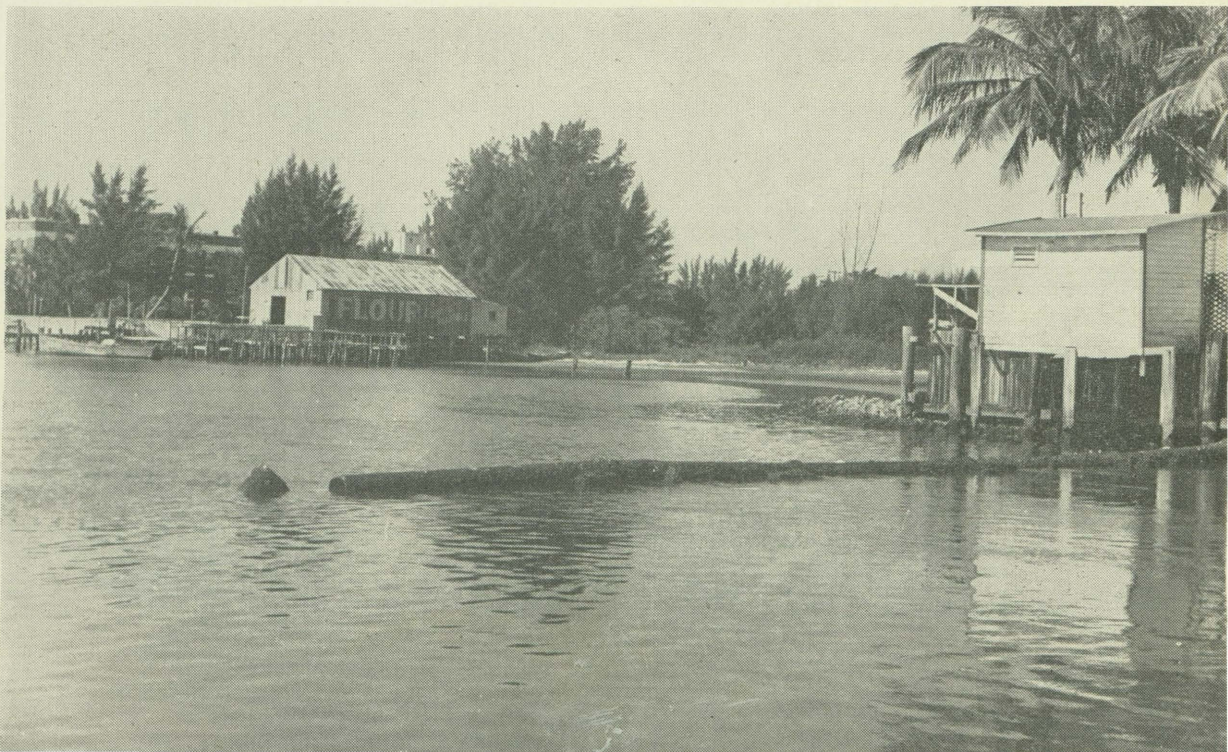
Individuals are slow to recognize contamination and pollution. Things that are not too obvious often lose much of their significance. However, most of us are certain that things are harmful if they offend our eyes and nose. We are concerned when odors from a stockyard or chicken killing establishment turn our stomachs wrong side out. We are concerned too when we see rats scampering over a refuse dump, a garbage can or an ash heap. Unfortunately, it is difficult for the average citizen to fully appreciate the various health, economic and welfare hazards of stream pollution because the contributing conditions are not as accessible or as easily smelled or seen.

The municipal scene in Florida is indeed dismal since we find that nearly every community of any size has failed utterly to provide adequate facilities for disposal of domestic sewage or garbage and rubbish. In many cases, storm sewage is conspicuous by its absence.

In 1945 there were 223 such places in the state, each with a population of more than 2,500 people—a total of 1,279,960 individuals. Records reveal

(Continued Page 18)

Here's a sewer outlet at work in a city yacht basin, two blocks from the business district. Note the Chic Sale installation overhanging the yacht basin bulkhead.




IN ONE respect at least, turtles are like human beings—there are good ones and there are bad ones. True enough, the turtle family has a certain percentage of “dead-end-kids” along with a substantial number of well-behaved and harmless aunts, uncles and cousins.

Unfortunately, most of us are prone to condemn the entire turtle family simply because of the sins of a comparative few. If the situation were reversed, turtles might easily catalogue all of us as safe-blowers because three yeggs cracked a till in Chicago, or as murderers after a killer goes on the loose in Akron, Ohio.

The general misunderstanding about turtles and their habits on the part of too many of our sportsmen has resulted in the widespread slaughter of many of the law-abiding members of the turtle clan and a subsequent thinning out in the ranks of valuable shell-backed members of Florida's wildlife. The tragedy of it all remains in the fact that, in most instances, the turtles are slaughtered in the belief that they are fish-killers or fish-egg eaters and then usually are discarded by the misinformed killer only to rot in the sun instead of supplying delectable meat on the family dinner table.

A description of Florida turtles is offered in this article with a hope that it will assist all sportsmen to easily distinguish between the sinful predators and the harmless varieties.



This unusual photo, taken by the author, shows a Florida Terrapin actually laying eggs. A small portion of them are laid in decoy holes to detract predators from the main nest.

THE TRUTH ABOUT *Turtles*

By ROSS ALLEN

Most outdoorsmen brand every turtle a predator and act accordingly. The author, a noted herpetologist, attempts to correct this mistaken theory.

The soft-shelled turtle is rated as being the No. 1 bad man of the entire turtle clan. He and his crafty henchmen are found in all of the state's fresh waters. Easily distinguished by his soft shell, he is slippery, streamlined and a vicious biter. His daily menu, costly to the state's wildlife, consists of ducks, frogs, fish and baby alligators. Although soft shells are quick and active in the water, they are easily seined and their meat is delicious. Many tons of them are sold as food annually. Their eggs, running from 20 to 35 and about an inch in diameter, are buried from seven to eight inches deep when laid. When the babies are hatched, they live from seven to eight days on the egg yolk before changing their menu to include tiny insects. Eventually, the youngsters scratch their way out of the dirt and immediately take to the water, perhaps two or three hundred feet distant from their hatching place. Full-grown soft shells attain a length of 18 inches and weigh 35 pounds.

The southern musk turtle, common musk turtle, striped mud turtle, palm hammock mud turtle, southern mud turtle and northern mud turtle are next in line as "bad actors." All of them are predators and live on a

varied diet that includes fish eggs, fairy shrimp, small snails, dead fish, any kind of minnow they can catch, and meat. They are bottom and underwater feeders and during warm weather eat every morning and late afternoon. They inhabit ponds, streams, lakes and roadside ditches and are well known by fishermen for their bait-stealing tendencies. Because of their musky odor, they are often nick-named "stink turtles." Their oblong eggs, usually buried in rotten logs or along sandy banks, are recognized as choice food for king snakes, skunks and coons. Dependent upon weather conditions, the eggs hatch in a period varying from 60 to 80 days. Turtles of this variety are more plentiful in north-central Florida than in the southern portions. Close observation has disclosed that alligators eat more of this type of turtle than any other. It is not exceptional for a five-foot 'gator to take on a full-sized mud or musk turtle for his noon-day meal.

Members of the snapper family, including the alligator snapper, common snapper and the Florida snapper, are predators. Of the three, the alligator snapper is the most interesting and in addition is recognized as being the turtle family's slickest fish-

erman. Mother Nature provided him with a natural fish-lure—a pink appendage of flesh on his tongue. When he gets fish-hungry, he merely opens his mouth, sticks out his tongue, and wiggles the "bait" until it attracts the curiosity of an unsuspecting fish. In an instant, the turtle snaps his jaws, and it's curtains for the poor fish and a swell meal for Mr. Turtle. In addition, he feeds on snails and clams and is endowed with jaws so powerful that he crushes the strongest clam shell easily. In fact his jaw action is so powerful that he easily snaps a common broomstick in two. Alligator turtles are numerous in north Florida rivers and never have been found farther south than in the Suwannee.

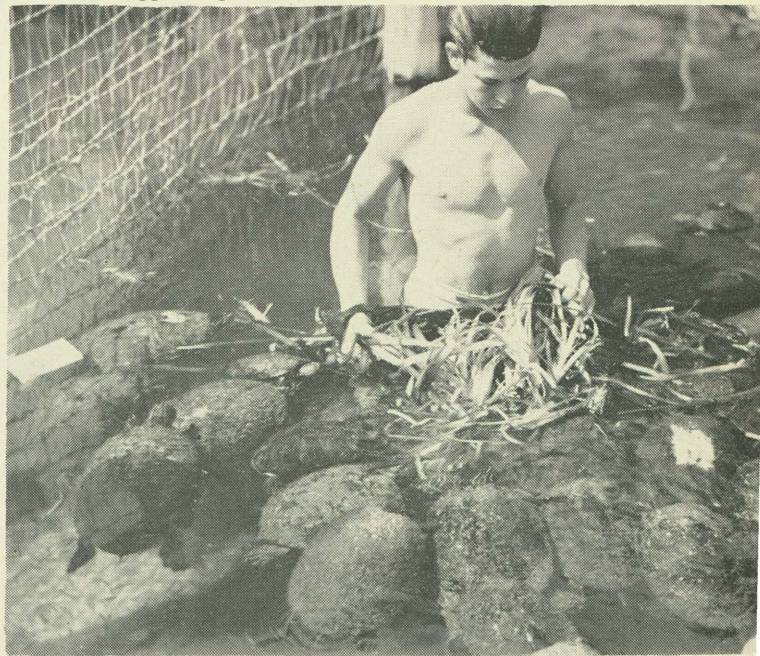
Members of the alligator turtle family lay round eggs, 1½ inches in diameter, and bury them in holes a foot and a half deep. Usually a female produces from 30 to 50 eggs and distributes a small portion of them in decoy nests to divert attention from the main nesting place. These eggs have an extremely high mortality rate—up to 90 per cent of them being eaten or destroyed by snakes and animals. Alligator turtles steer clear of shallow water and usually are found

(Continued Page 17)

These six Alligator Turtles, averaging 100 pounds each, were caught in the Suwannee River. They entice fish to their mouth by sticking out their tongue and wiggling it.



Florida Terrapin eat water grass like a horse does hay. Sidney Phillips is shown feeding a group of the four-legged vegetarians.





Here's what you'll see if you fly to the Florida Sportsmen's Exposition at Eustis this year.

FOR THE SPORTSMAN SHOW

A MIDST the din of hammers and saws on the Lake County Fairgrounds, Karl Lehmann is dividing his time these days between checking blueprints and giving his final approval to last minute plans for staging the Second Annual Florida Sportsmen's Exposition at Eustis March 15-20.

What's more, Manager Lehmann is ready to present a show "twice as big and three times better" than last year's premiere—the colorful Exposition that operated contrary to all theories of so-called good showmanship and ended by being acclaimed the most successful show of its kind ever attempted in Florida or the entire Southeast.

Last year, veteran showmen flatly predicted failure for the Exposition when it was decided to operate it on a strictly non-commercial basis—no admission charge and no compensation for the Exposition officials. Despite the dark predictions, the Exposition won the praise of thousands of sportsmen representing nearly every state in the Union, and proved to be a "shot in the arm" for the Lake County Fair that operated side-by-

A group of Lake County sportsmen have created a fair that is different.

side with it. The turnstiles at the fairground churned a near record attendance at the 20-year-old fair. The Exposition was given full credit for the upturn and the experience was sufficient to convince the fair board officials that the Sportsmen's Exposition should become a permanent fairground fixture.

Much of the credit for the success of the joint Exposition and Fair dates back to two years ago when County Agent Norris warned that the annual Lake County Fair was fast becoming "just another fair."

Exhibits of cows and pigs and chickens were dwindling, he pointed out, and the front gate receipts were dwindling too!



An artist's conception of Florida Island, to be opened to the public during the Florida Sportsmen's Exposition. Built in the shape of the state, it is three blocks long; has a fish rearing pool and fully equipped picnic grounds.

"Our Fair needs a shot in the arm—or else," Norris declared.

The organization of the Sportsmen's Exposition was the answer to Norris' prayers.

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioners were amongst the first to be approached for an exhibit. As a result, the agency provided the biggest wildlife exhibit it had ever attempted outside the State Fair at Tampa.

The commission set up a half-dozen water-filled tanks and provided them with scores of fresh water fish that ranged in size from babies to 10 and 12 pound fighting black bass. Behind artistic, rustic enclosures there were white-tailed deer, native squirrels, quail, wild turkeys, two coons and even a snarling wildcat. Thousands of sportsmen visited the commission's exhibit—thousands of pamphlets preaching wildlife protection and conservation were distributed.

"We'll come back with a bigger and better exhibit in 1948," the commissioners promised when the Exposition ended.

All other exhibitors, enthused over the success of the Exposition, unanimously agreed to "play a return engagement" in 1948. Since then the list has grown to the extent that Man-

ager Lehmann is safe on his promise of a 1948 show "twice as big and three times better" than last year.

More than 100 feet of space has been reserved for the displays of the State Forestry Department and the Park Commission. Officials of the Everglades National Park will present an outstanding exhibit that is destined to attract the interest of thousands of visitors. The Florida Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Lake County Sportsmen's Association will provide exhibits fea-

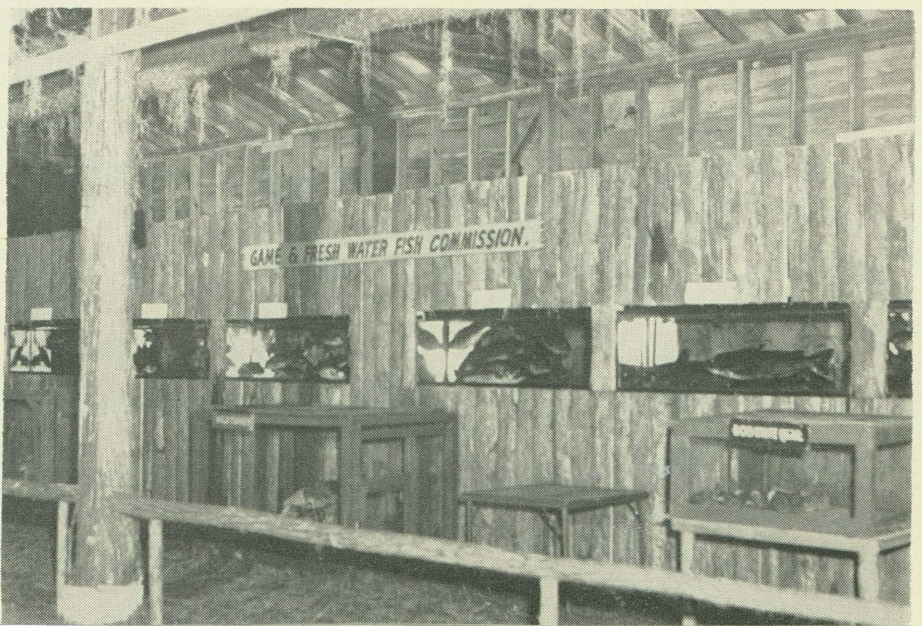
turing the State's wildlife. Scores of commercial firms have arranged to display the very latest in speed boats, outboard motors, camping equipment, fishing gear, hunting paraphernalia, trailers and automobiles—all of the equipment dear to the heart of every outdoorsman.

A miniature "Gulf of Mexico," constructed since last year, will be opened for public approval. Built in the exact contour of the State of Florida, it is more than three city blocks long and its outer edges surround a huge fish rearing pond. Fingerlings hatched in the pool will be used for the future restocking of Lake County fresh water lakes and streams. At one point along the pool's edge, picnic grounds have been laid out and are provided with outdoor ovens, shelters and tables for picnickers.

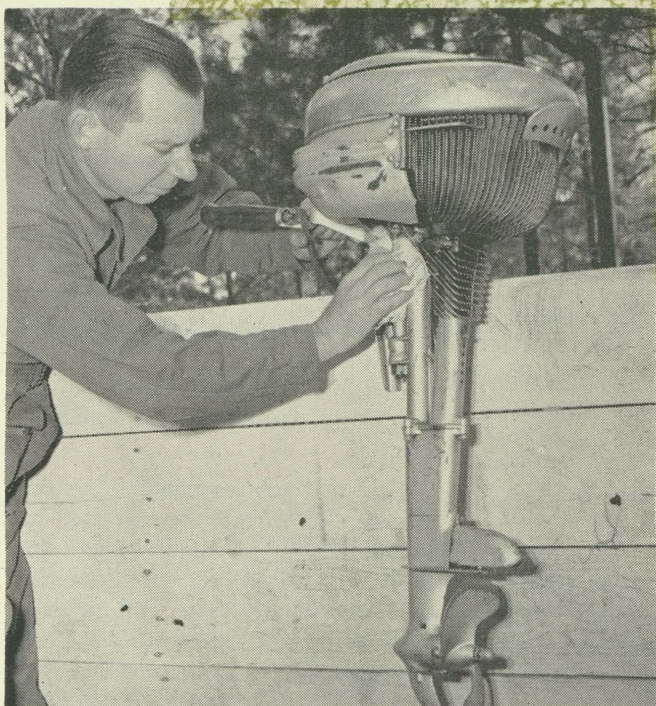
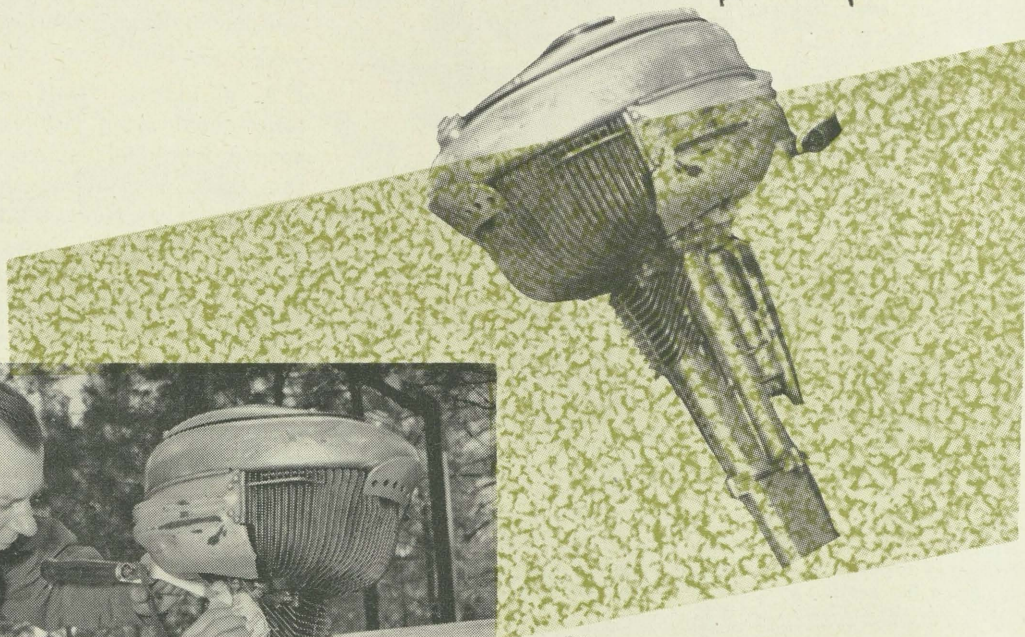
The Fair board has been willing to provide rent-free county buildings to house the annual Exposition. Manager Lehmann and his three assistants gladly work without compensation while organizing the outstanding event—and the annual Exposition already is recognized as a "permanent fixture."

Adequate funds to finance the annual event have been appropriated by the Lake County Commissioners and any profits that accrue from the Exposition in the future will be used in improving and maintaining the Exposition buildings and facilities.

Living specimens of Florida's famous fish, game birds and animals will be exhibited by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

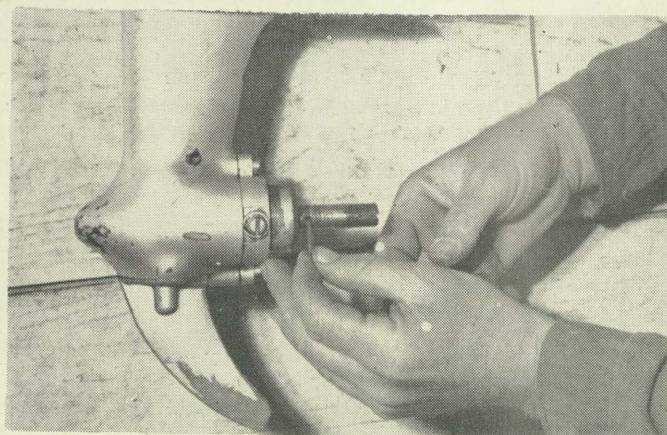


CLEAN UP YOUR KICKER



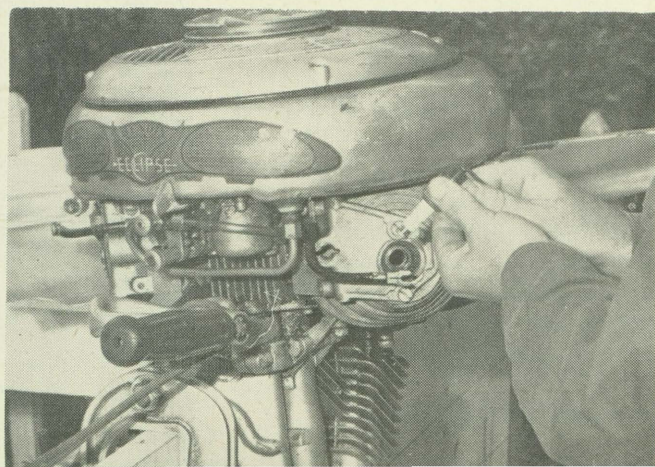
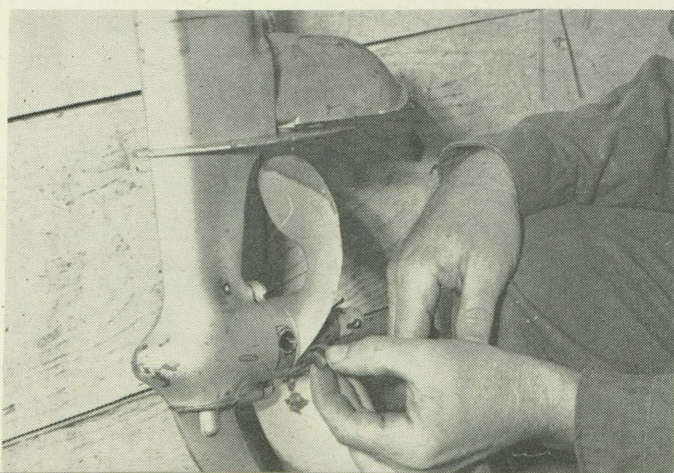
A thorough wipedown of the exterior with a damp rag will permit a close inspection of the many parts.

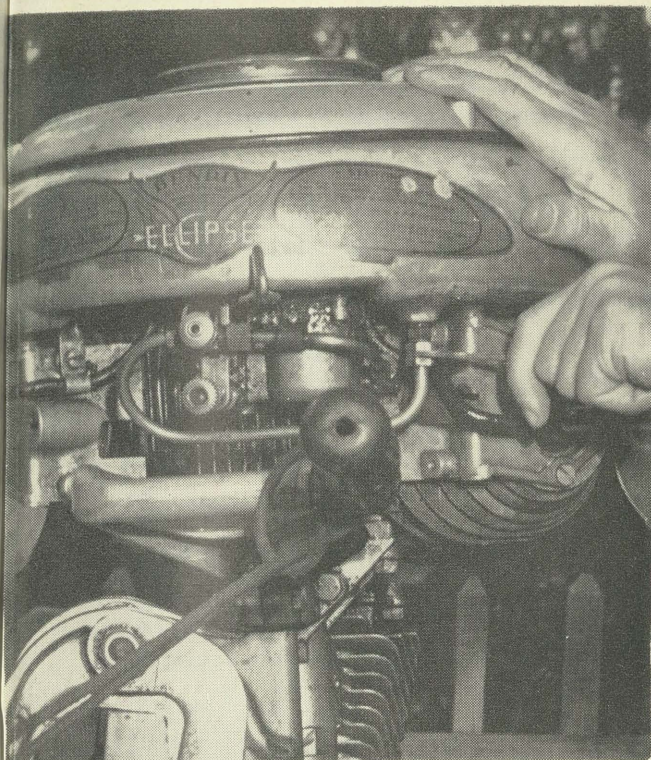
Remove the grease plug; add new grease with force enough to press out some of the old grease and any water that might be in the gear case.



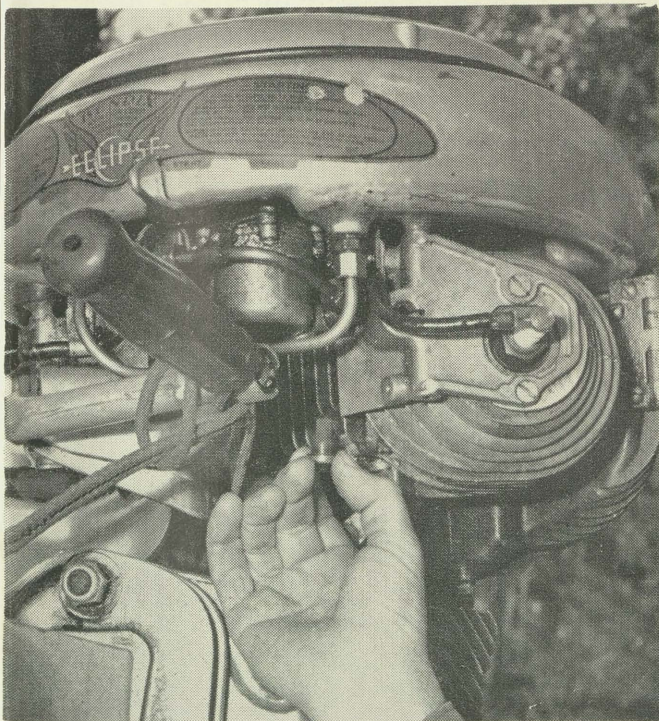
Remove the propeller and take a look at the shear pin. If it is partially sheared, it's a lot easier to replace on dry land.

Clean the sparkplugs and accurately space the spark gap. Check for cracked porcelain and burned electrodes. If there is any doubt, new plugs will pay for themselves in easier starting.





The fuel strainer in the carburetor will need a cleaning. Blow out any dirt and wash in clean gasoline.



Remove the gas line; drain tank and carburetor of any gasoline left in the motor from last season.



**Spring is around the corner ---
and it's clean-up time for
the motorboatman.**

IN A FEW weeks it'll be spring cleaning time—not only for the housewife but for the motorboatman. This is the time of year you'll want to drag out the old kicker and start readying it for spring fishing. Chances are, whether it's been used or stored during the winter, your motor will need a general clean-up.

You'll probably find it covered with grease from cylinder head to propeller, but don't be alarmed; just put a little gasoline on a clean rag and wipe the whole motor clean. It will help you to see all the little things that need attention.

Gasoline grows stale with age, forms a gum and even collects water from moisture in the half empty gas tank. Take off the gas line and drain all of last season's gas out of the tank. Be sure you get it all out of the carburetor, too.

While you are near the carburetor remove the gasoline strainer, blow out all trash that has collected in it and wash in clean gasoline. An old tooth brush comes in handy to scrub off any gum or trash that is sticking to the fine mesh screen. If water and gum have formed a hard scum over the screen a new one should be installed.

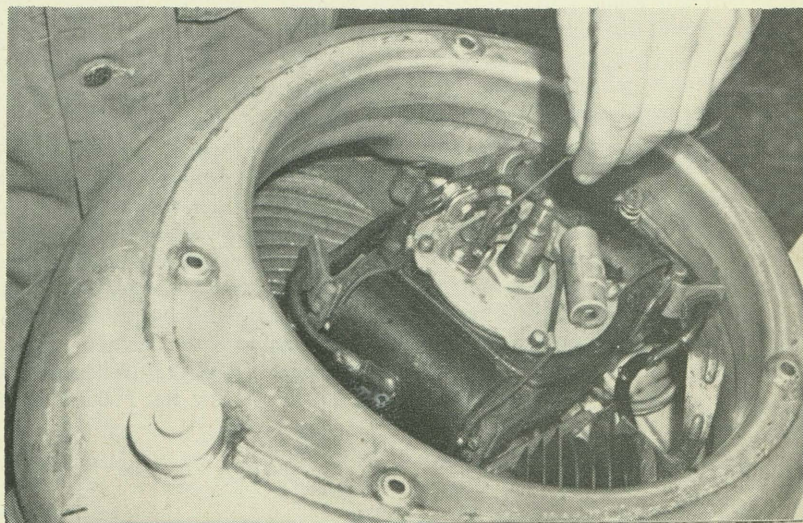
The ignition system, spark plugs, wires and the magneto are the very heart of your motor. They are the parts that can make or break a day's fishing. Check your plugs for broken porcelain, burned electrodes and be sure the wires from the magneto to the plugs are not broken. If you aren't too sure about the points and adjustment of the magneto it will be best to take it to a mechanic for this operation.

The motor's lower unit needs attention too. The grease filling and drain plugs should be removed and fresh grease added. Use the type recommended by the motor's manufacturer, and add enough to force some of the old grease and any water present out of the gear case. Remove the propeller and take a look at the shear pin. If it has been partially sheared you had better replace it. Now is a good time to cut some new shear pins to keep in the tool kit just in case.

As a final step tighten all bolts and screws. Pay particular attention to the flywheel nut. This can only be tightened by a sharp tap or two on the wrench handle with a hammer. See that the propeller nut is not pulled up so tightly as to begin shearing the pin, and that there is a cotter key to hold it in place.

And now, to insure trouble-free boating during the months to come, watch your fuel mixture. Be certain to use the type of oil and the amount specified by the motor's manufacturer. Never mix oil and gasoline in the fuel tank of the motor. Do it in a separate container and shake until it is thoroughly mixed. Too much oil is just as bad for a motor as too little. NEVER use aviation grade gasoline in your outboard.

Check the magneto breaker points. If there is any doubt about this operation a trip to a marine motor dealer will be worth it in time and effort saved.



FLORIDA WILDLIFE

In the Interest of the Sportsman

OFFICERS

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Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfport
Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanford



Sarah Alberson

Federation Lays Plans For Game Code Classes

Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation is preparing to launch a new educational program that has been carefully planned to familiarize each of the Federation's 16,000 members with our state game and fish laws.

"Although I recognize that ignorance of the law does not constitute an excuse for breaking it, I am firmly convinced that many of our sportsmen have unknowingly infringed numerous hunting and fishing regulations simply because of their unfamiliarity with the law," President Cooksey said.

In accordance with the new educational program, soon to be launched from the Federation's St. Petersburg headquarters, officials of sportsmen's clubs throughout the state will be requested to set aside a 30-minute period for studying fish and game regulations during each regular meeting.

"I am convinced that all of us would be better sportsmen and will be prepared to offer our fullest cooperation and assistance to the wildlife officers if we have an opportunity to study the many duties they are sworn to perform in the field," Cooksey said.

Officials already are preparing a new and enlarged manual for wildlife officers at Tallahassee. As soon as the new edition is received from the printer, enough copies will be supplied to the federation to warrant distribution to the more than 50 sportsmen's clubs in the State.

President Presented Life Membership In Capitol Ceremony

The Florida Wildlife Federation took a prominent place in the national spotlight on January 22, when at an informal gathering of dignitaries in Washington, President Harry S. Truman was presented a life membership in the organization.

The membership certificate, mounted in a unique frame hand-carved from five Florida woods, was presented to the President by United States Senator Spessard L. Holland before a large group of nationally famous wildlife conservationists, newspapermen, and outdoor magazine editors.

"We would like to think that the presentation of the membership certificate by the Florida Wildlife Federation will also make you a kind of honorary citizen of Florida," Senator Holland told the President.

Then he told his listeners that he was looking forward to spending a week or ten days at Key West sometime later in the spring if developments in Washington permitted the trip.

Senator Holland reported that not only the conservation press, but the general press as well was represented at the ceremony. Representatives of the Associated press and United Press were on hand. In addition representatives of the Miami Daily News and the Miami Herald were present along with special press representatives of numerous other Florida newspapers.

Those who attended the ceremony were: Albert M. Day, director of the National Fish and Wildlife Service; J. B. Trew, Sr., representing the Florida Wildlife Federation; Robert A. Wilson, vice-president of the Outdoor Writers of America; Carl D. Shumaker, president of the National Wildlife Federation; C. R. Gutermuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Michael Hudoba, Washington editor of Sports Afield Magazine; Senator Holland and his secretary, and Paul Shelley.

Decision to appoint the President a life member in the Federation, in recognition for his stirring plea for wildlife conservation he made at the dedication of Everglades National Park, was made recently by the Federation president and directors.

Sarah Alberson Named Federation Secretary

Mrs. Sarah H. Alberson, well known writer of wildlife feature articles, has been appointed executive secretary of the Florida Wildlife Federation. She succeeds E. C. Wimer, who resigned recently.

Decision to employ Mrs. Alberson was made at Tallahassee during a recent special meeting of the Federation board of directors.

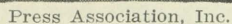
Mrs. Alberson is well qualified for her secretarial duties. For a number of years she was secretary of the Daytona Beach Wildlife Association and is an ardent lover of the outdoor sports of hunting and fishing. Recently she has strenuously advocated more "woman interest" in Florida's wildlife conservation programs.



President Harry S. Truman smiled broadly as he was presented with a life membership certificate in the Federation last month. The group, participating in the ceremony, included the secretary of the Fish and Wildlife Service, C. R. Gutermuth, Washington editor of Sports Afield, Carl D. Shumaker, president of the National Wildlife Federation, and Albert M. Day, director of the National Fish and Wildlife Service.

Liberty County Group Joins With Federation

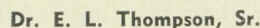
"The club has more than 50 charter members and every one of them is ready to fight for conservation of Florida Wildlife," President Cooksey said. "I am convinced the new club will become one of our strongest sportsmen's organizations in the entire state.



U. S. Senator Spessard L. Holland presented Florida Wildlife Federation at the White House. From left to right, includes: Paul Shelley, R. Gutermuth, vice-president of the Wildlife U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Michael magazine; President Truman; Senator Holland; Wildlife Federation; Robert A. Wilson, vice-J. B. Trew, Sr., Florida Wildlife Federation.

Daytona Beach Club Names New Officers; Lays Plans for 1948

Former President Taylor was congratulated for the constructive work the club accomplished during his year in office. It was pointed out that public interest had greatly stimulated the sports of hunting and fishing. Under Taylor's guidance, the club membership was opened to women and since then great numbers of the "frail sex" joined the organization and became ardent hunters and fishers.



Court Decision Hailed As Great Step Forward

"If commission biologists say it won't hurt sports fishing that's good enough for me," Cooksey said. "The federation doesn't want to crucify commercial netters—it just wants to see good fishing."

They're BITING Here

A LOT OF FISHERMEN have been missing some mighty good bets recently simply because they traded their fishing gear for hunting equipment and then temporarily joined the army of nimrods that has been invading the state's hunting grounds ever since the season opened Nov. 20. In many ways, this situation has been a "break" for dyed-in-the-wool fishermen who refuse to allow hunting or anything else distract them from making regular trips to their favorite fishing haunts. As a result of this situation, the outdoorsmen who remained loyal to the fishing fraternity have been reporting better than average success—what's more they have been carrying home heavy stringers of bass, bream and speckled perch with amazing regularity. Listed below are just a few of the choice spots where the loyal fishermen have been having the time of their lives while hundreds of others played "hookey" and went hunting instead.

MANATEE COUNTY

Bream, speckled perch and bass fishing has been top-notch on the Myakka River and at Ward Lake since the latter part of November and old-timers predict it will stay that way until the end of this month. You'll have your best luck early in the morning. Worms and live bait are recommended.

OCHLAWAHA RIVER

If it's redbelly bream you are looking for, pack up your gear and take off for Cedar Landing, in Putnam county, or Payne's Landing, in Marion county. Use worms for bait and start fishing early in the afternoon. If you want to carry home a few bass, go to Island Lake and wet your lines near the Fort McCoy Road near Orange Springs.

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Black bass fishermen will have a lot of fun this month if they try their luck in the St. Johns River jetties at Lake George. Shiners are the preferred bait and start fishing early in the morning. Jack Baker, of DeLand, and two friends from Jacksonville accounted for 17 nice ones at this spot a short time ago. If you want to top your stringer off with some nice speckled perch, go to Crows Bluff on the St. Johns River.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

Big-mouth bass, known to natives as "trout" are really hitting in Lake Okeechobee near Clewiston. A recent run of cool weather has brought them out in all their fighting glory. Fishermen are taking bag limits from Rock Reef, just outside the hurricane gate. Surface plugs are good along the reef. At Station No. 2, a big culvert west of the hurricane gate, a Dalton Special frog spot will take an easy string at sundown. There's a feeding place on the west side of the culvert, where a sandbar runs out into the channel.

Fisheatin' Creek, an inlet into Okeechobee, has produced fine strings recently. At the Lakeport highway bridges, surface plugs and Johnson No. 2 spoons with porkrind are good. The porkrind should be the largest you can get, preferably "Muskie" size. Boating down the creek away from the bridges, an Eger crippled Florida minnow in a flash finish is good in the pockets and deep pools, but the bass are avoiding the swift water and the eddies.

SANTA FE LAKE

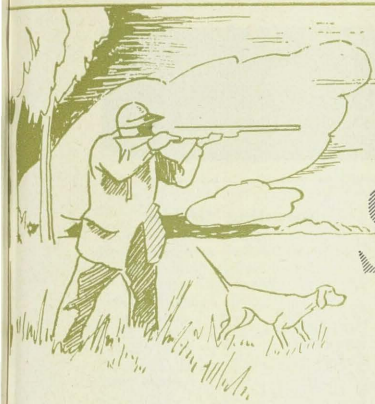
This lake offers a choice spot for bream and speckled perch fishermen this month. Use minnows or worms and start fishing early in the morning. Scores of anglers have been reporting excellent success at Santa Fe. One of them, W. E. Welclan, of Starke, carried home a prize stringer of speckled perch.

MARTIN COUNTY

Bream and all types of bass are hitting in the headwaters of the St. Lucie River and along the spillways of the St. Lucie Canal. It's a toss up if you use worms, pork rind or feathers for bait. Fishing will hold up all day long.

KISSIMMEE RIVER

It's a sure shot for black bass and blue bream fishermen these days if they pick the spots where the streams are draining into the Kissimmee River out of the Okeechobee county marshes. Use worms for the bream and any good top-water plug will interest the bass. Start fishing early in the morning or late in the afternoon.



from SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS



DR. U. S. GORDON was unanimously re-elected president of the Alachua County Sportsmen's Association during a recent meeting at the Recreation Center in Gainesville. All other officers were returned to office and in addition, **Howard Bishop** was named secretary. **Wade Hampton**, who formerly served as secretary-treasurer, was renamed treasurer. Other officers include **J. O'Neal Cox**, first vice-president; **G. Earl Gay**, second vice-president; and **George Grady**, third vice-president.

Prior to the election, more than 60 members were served a supper of fried fish, hush puppies, pie and coffee.

The February meeting will be held in Hawthorne with **Jack Williams** and **Earl Gay** in charge.

The St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club was compelled to hang out the standing-room-only sign recently when the members staged a barbecue mullet and baked bean spread. With a membership nudging over the 500 mark, all charter members, the party attracted an attendance greater than the total membership. Entertainment was supplied by the Charmettes, a musical organization directed by **Flo Nickerson**.

Gene Tunney was feted last month by members of Miami's Rod and Reel Club. During the bang-up meeting, Gene was presented with a trophy for his outstanding fishing achievements in the Bahamas last season. The trophy was presented to the former heavyweight champ by **Michael Gerassimos**, commissioner of Bimini.

Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Pensacola Anglers' Club at Harborview, near West Pensacola, that attracted more than 150 guests. A fish chowder supper was served.

Cooksey said that "more progress has been made in the conservation of fish and game in Florida in the past seven months than in the last 10 years."

Sports movies were shown at the end of the business session.

Determined to kill water hyacinths and other noxious weeds in Lake Tsala Apopka, members of the Citrus County Sportsmen's Club are ready to spray 1,600 gallons of weed killer over a 10-acre lake area. **President Snell Mills** has called a meeting of his organization to determine when, how, where and by whom the club's weed eradicator can be most effectively used.

The Palm Beach County Wildlife League has launched an intensive membership campaign with the sights leveled at "not less than 1,500." Under the direction of **Kenneth Helman**, league president, the members are campaigning to improve fishing and hunting conditions throughout Palm Beach county.

There is never a dull moment for members of the Caloosahatchee Conservation Club, at Fort Myers, and the organization is being recognized throughout the state as one of Florida's most progressive conservation organizations.

Recently the Club expressed appreciation to the State Board of Conservation after several of its officers arrested a Naples fish house operator and charged him with the possession of 25,180 pounds of illegal mullet.

Elmo Ballard, club president, promised to aid the conservation agents in attempting to obtain funds for the use of a seaplane in enforcing fishing laws after club members were informed that the State Conservation Department does not provide funds for boats or planes.

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
FIRST DISTRICT				
Ernest Deeson, Lakeland	Commercial Fishing	\$25.00	Polk	C. E. Collins
Levy Grimes, Lakeland	Commercial fishing	25.00	Polk	C. E. Collins
W. L. Williams, Ocala, Ga.	Fishing without license	12.00	Polk	Edward Gill
Alvie Lockhart, Graceville	Fishing without license	11.75	Polk	Ed Gunter
Inez Robertson, Bowling Green	Fishing without license	11.75	Polk	Ed Gunter
Semore Dixon, Frostproof	Fishing without license	17.00	Polk	H. O. Whittle
Cecil F. Goodson, Haines City	Hunting with unplugged gun	13.25	Polk	E. S. Summer
Elton McKenzie, Frostproof	Hunting with unplugged gun	12.71	Polk	Ed Gunter
David Zane Caudell, Lakeland	Hunting without license	15.00	Polk	C. E. Collins
Ernest Strain, Lakeland	Hunting on closed day	15.00	Polk	C. E. Collins
J. F. Leap, Portland, Ore.	Possession undersized bass	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
Charlie Henry, Tampa	Possession undersized bass	40.14	Pasco	A. B. Nathe
Wash May, Tampa	Possession undersized bass	40.14	Pasco	A. B. Nathe
Joe Taylor, Felda	Gun and light in woods at night	6 months probation	Hendry	E. E. Douglas
J. H. Nix, Clewiston	Possession undersized bass	20.00*	Hendry	Frank Turner
S. W. McGee, Clewiston	Hunting in breeding ground	40.00	Hendry	Frank Turner
G. M. Crum, Briton	Off Day hunting	25.00	Hendry	Oscar J. Taylor
Charles L. Lykes, Tampa	Off Day hunting	25.00	Hendry	Oscar J. Taylor
Dan Taylor, Felda	Possession gun and light in woods at night	6 months probation	Hendry	E. E. Douglas
Alvin Hester, Felda	Possession gun and light in woods at night	25.00	Hendry	E. E. Douglas
P. B. Hendry, Moore Haven	Fishing without license	15.00	Hendry	J. L. Powers
John R. Mott, Nashville, Tenn.	Fishing without license	25.00*	Highlands	H. C. Bigbil
Mrs. John R. Mott, Nashville, Tenn.	Fishing without license	25.00*	Highlands	E. W. Cribb
E. P. Burnett, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
C. W. Burnett, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
Wesley K. Davis, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
J. McKinley, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
Norman Grace, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
Charles E. Ford, Jr., Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
Dick Whiteside, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
Jack T. Whiteside, Tampa	Hunting dove in baited field	12.50	Hillsborough	Thomas Stanaland
R. E. DuBois, Tampa	Hunting on closed day	Court costs	Hillsborough	E. M. White
V. N. Steele, Valrico	Hunting on closed day	10.50	Hillsborough	E. M. White
E. P. McLean, Blooming Dale	Hunting on closed day	10.50	Hillsborough	E. M. White
Paul Wiggins, Knights	Shooting over baited field	26.00*	Hillsborough	E. P. Campbell
Robert S. McKnight, Tampa	Shooting over baited field	26.00*	Hillsborough	E. P. Campbell
E. D. Treadwell, 3rd, Arcadia	Unplugged gun	27.28*	Lee	Walter Whitehead
McGregory Smith, Jr., Coral Gables	Unplugged gun	27.28	Lee	Walter Whitehead
Brooks Johnson, Nocatee	Unplugged gun	27.28	Lee	Walter Whitehead
Stuart Rabb, Fort Myers	Unplugged gun	24.48	Lee	Walter Whitehead
T. L. Brown, West Bradenton	Hunting in game preserve	10.00	Manatee	R. N. Cook
SECOND DISTRICT				
Hubert Lauree Warren, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	25.00*	Alachua	Leslie B. Pigue
James R. Ervin, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	25.00*	Alachua	Leslie B. Pigue
Don Macculan, Atlanta, Ga.	Fishing without license	25.00*	Alachua	Leslie B. Pigue
Herbert Martin, Orange Lake	Shooting ducks with motor boat running	25.00*	Alachua	A. S. McEwen
M. H. Thomas, Old Town	Hunting without license	14.20	Alachua	E. E. Driggers
Joe Thomas, Old Town	Hunting without license	14.20	Alachua	E. E. Driggers
Tom F. Cato, Gainesville	Hunting with gun of more than three shell capacity	25.00*	Dixie	George H. Green
Joe Brannin, Foley	Hunting with improper license	25.00*	Dixie	B. F. Folsom
James Griffin, Jacksonville	Hunting out of season	25.00*	Duval	L. A. Stokes
R. E. Romaly, Jacksonville	Hunting quail out of season	15.00*	Duval	L. A. Stokes
Sam Thomas, Bell	Hunting without license	25.00*	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
Wesley Hodge, High Springs	Hunting in breeding area	17.50†	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
E. M. Bulland, High Springs	Hunting in breeding area	17.50†	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
T. M. Hodge, High Springs	Hunting in breeding area	17.50†	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
Henry McCribbs, Jasper	Hunting game at night	25.00	Hamilton	Robert K. Mitchell
Lonnie Morgan, Jasper	Hunting game at night	25.00	Hamilton	Robert K. Mitchell
O. E. Pool, Butler, Ga.	Hunting without license on closed day	25.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
George Derrick, Fernandina	Hunting on closed day	25.00*	Nassau	Carl T. Jones
C. G. Simmons, Jacksonville	Hunting without license on closed day	25.00*	Nassau	Carl T. Jones
Myrtle C. Clees, Perry	Hunting on closed day	15.00*	Nassau	B. E. Leggett
Mrs. Mack Brosseol, Alabama	Fishing without license	S.D.	Taylor	J. O. McMullen
Mack Brosseol, Alabama	Fishing without license	S.D.	Taylor	J. O. McMullen
L. H. Lovell, Fernandina	Unplugged gun	15.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
Walter Thomas, Jr., Wauchula	Hunting without license	20.00	Union	Milton R. Dukes
Alonza Kohn, High Springs	Hunting in breeding area	17.50*	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
THIRD DISTRICT				
Charles Scott, Bay Harbor	Hunting without license	11.35	Bay	W. L. Boyd
William Barlow, Bay Harbor	Hunting without license	11.35	Bay	W. L. Boyd
Camel Barbaron, Jr., Bay Harbor	Hunting without license	11.35	Bay	W. L. Boyd
R. H. Larkins, Bristol	Shipping wild turkeys out of state	65.75	Calhoun	Walter Larkins
J. E. Ross	Hunting without license	12.50*	Escambia	M. H. McCoy
Clarence Ward, Molina	Hunting with unplugged gun	15.00*	Escambia	M. H. McCoy
John Talley, East Point	Hunting without license	20.40	Franklin	John Elderkin
Jim Mosconis, Apalachicola	Unplugged gun	25.00	Franklin	R. E. Little
William J. Wester, Marianna	Fishing without license	35.00	Franklin	R. E. Little
Fletcher Jackson, Quincy	Hunting without license	15.00	Gadsden	George V. Atkinson
James Bass, Port St. Joe	Possession squirrels in closed season	26.75	Gulf	Allen Legrone
Paul Blount, Port St. Joe	Killing dove in closed season	36.00	Gulf	Allen Legrone
Francis Dickey, Freeport	Hunting with gun of more than three shell capacity	25.00*	Gulf	H. O. Pridgeon
J. B. Ellis, Dothan, Ala.	Possession squirrels in closed season	35.00	Gulf	H. E. Helms
E. W. Cox, Panama City	Unplugged gun	26.40	Gulf	S. P. McDonald
Marion Jenkins	Improper hunting license	24.65	Gulf	W. L. Boyd
D. Mayfield	Improper hunting license	24.65	Gulf	W. L. Boyd
A. W. Osten, Chipley	Fishing without license	30.58	Jackson	Joe Sims
Abraham Stephens, Marianna	Exceeding bag limit on fish	46.20	Jackson	Joe Sims
Leon Slaughter, Columbus, Ga.	Hunting without license and unplugged gun	49.60	Jackson	Sam Hunter
Jimmy Smith, Jr., Marianna	Exceeding bag limit on fish	25.70	Jackson	Sam Hunter

* Bond forfeited.

† Suspended sentence.

S.D. Sentence deferred.

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS—(Continued)

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
W. W. Chambers, Tallahassee.	Hunting in closed season with unplugged gun.	35.00	Leon.	J. H. Harrison
H. R. Chambers, Tallahassee.	Hunting in closed season.	25.00	Leon.	J. H. Harrison
John Earl Perkins, Tallahassee.	Exceeding bag limit on ducks.	25.00*	Leon.	A. D. Livingston
H. S. Nelson, Thomasville, Ga.	Illegal fishing.	29.75	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
Howard Rolland, Graceville.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	50.00*	Liberty.	Lee Duggar
Ozro Chancy, Newville, Ala.	Fishing with improper license.	50.00*	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
J. M. Pranette, Tallahassee.	Fishing without license.	15.00	Liberty.	Loethair Chester
Oglesby Shaw, Quincy.	Unplugged gun.	5.00	Liberty.	Loethair Chester
Wallace E. Baker, Thomasville, Ga.	Attempting to buy fresh water fish.	29.75	Liberty.	Emmett Reeder
Loyd Kimmel, Atlanta, Ga.	Illegal fishing.	29.75	Liberty.	Emmett Reeder
Jim Boyett, Dothan, Ala.	Hunting without license.	100.00	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
Ella Harris, Quincy.	Fishing without license.	29.75	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
Iona Stephens, Quincy.	Fishing without license.	29.75	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
E. E. Boyett, Slocomb, Ala.	Hunting without license.	100.00	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
Willie Hill, Sumatra.	Unplugged gun.	S.D.	Liberty.	Walter Larkins
Rex Tompkins, Cleo, Ala.	Fishing without license.	5.00	Liberty.	Emmett Reeder
Ben Leysa, Crestview.	Possession of undersized bass.	11.50	Okaloosa.	E. E. Whidden
FOURTH DISTRICT				
Claude E. White, Fort Lauderdale.	Hunting with gun of more than three shell capacity.	30.23	Broward.	L. E. Bunnell
K. E. Thaysen, Miami.	Shooting on State Road without license.	5.00	Dade.	John W. May
Bud Rice, Miami.	Shooting on State Road without license.	5.00	Dade.	John W. May
Eddie Graham, West Palm Beach.	Possession of undersized bass and exceeding bag limit.	25.00	Palm Beach.	Vernon W. Hays
Otis Bryant, West Palm Beach.	Possession of undersized bass and exceeding bag limit.	25.00	Palm Beach.	Vernon W. Hays
FIFTH DISTRICT				
James Hunt, Eau Gallie.	Hunting on closed day.	21.00	Brevard.	L. A. Tindall
Barney Booth, Eau Gallie.	Hunting on closed day.	27.65	Brevard.	C. H. Sapp
Charles A. Burnsel, Jr., Daytona Beach.	Illegal hunting.	18.65	Flagler.	J. O. Buckles
Charles A. Burnsel, Sr., Dayton Beach.	Illegal hunting.	18.65	Flagler.	J. O. Buckles
M. C. Cole, Zellwood.	Fishing without license.	10.00	Lake.	Frank O'Neal
Reed Brandsteden, Zellwood.	Fishing without license.	10.00	Lake.	Frank O'Neal
Ernest Barton, McClelleny.	Killing doe deer.	100.00*	Marion.	Carson-Waldron
L. A. Kingcade, Reddick.	Hunting with gun of more than three shell capacity.	25.00	Marion.	V. Seekinger
William E. Mims, Winter Garden.	On water at night with gun and light.	25.00*	Orange.	J. B. Walker
B. P. Harter, Jr., Winter Garden.	On water at night with gun and light.	25.00*	Orange.	J. B. Walker
Bill Ayers, Orlando.	Hunting in closed season.	35.00*	Orange.	W. C. Tames
Johnnie Pappy, St. Augustine.	Exceeding bag limit on Marsh Hens.	50.00*	St. Johns.	Pacetti-Pappy
Johnnie Pappy, St. Augustine.	Possession coots in closed season.	53.90	St. Johns.	Pacetti-Pappy
Robert Shugart, St. Augustine.	Possession coots in closed season.	53.90	St. Johns.	Pacetti-Pappy
John Henry Potter, Coleman.	Possession firearms in game reserve.	50.00	Sumter.	R. Remington
Norman Rickerson, Michigan.	Fishing without license.	S.D.	Sumter.	R. Remington
Charles Rowley, DeLand.	Hunting on closed day.	25.68	Volusia.	H. L. Lungrin
Otto Warner, Ormond.	Hunting on closed day.	39.90	Volusia.	H. L. Lungrin
John Hale, Ormond.	Hunting on closed day with improper license.	39.90	Volusia.	H. L. Lungrin
Calvin Hyde, Ormond.	Hunting on closed day.	39.90	Volusia.	H. L. Lungrin
Glenn Durham, Daytona Beach.	Hunting on closed day.	39.90	Volusia.	H. L. Lungrin

* Bond forfeited

† Suspended sentence

S.D. Sentence deferred

THE TRUTH ABOUT TURTLES (Continued from Page 7)

in deep, dark streams where they are adequately hidden from sight. Cat fish and bream are high on their menu card. They eventually attain a length of 26 inches and a weight of 200 pounds.

The common snapper and Florida snapper, predators too, are much smaller, reaching a maximum length of only 14 inches and a weight of 50 pounds. They bury up in the mud and catch fish by snapping at them. They stand charged with eating ducks, fish, crayfish, frogs and snakes. In addition to other bad traits, they are capable and willing to give unsuspecting fishermen a vicious bite. Ponds, lakes and rivers provide their home.

Members of the terrapin family, commonly termed "cooters" by most sportsmen, have the misfortune to be the most accused and most misand too frequently are condemned

understood of all Florida turtles. The admirable family includes the Alabama, Mobile, Suwannee, Florida, peninsular, red-bellied, Florida red-bellied and yellow-bellied terrapin. Endowed with an appetite for moss and grass, 95 per cent of their menu consists of vegetation. They rarely ever eat fish unless forced to do so because of lack of other food supply. This breed enjoys long sunning periods and this habit makes them easy prey for hunters and fishermen who each year kill countless hundreds of them only to leave them to rot in the sun. The Indians are well familiar with the high food quality of terrapin meat. Down in the Everglades, they remove the lower shell and entrails and roast the turtle by turning him top-shell first over a hot fire.

Gopher tortoise, the big fellows you often see traveling across a highway or in your back yard, also suffer for the sins of their relatives of ill-repute

and killed for no good reason. He too is a strict vegetarian and a staunch friend of wildlife.

Other turtles, listed as harmless, include Baur's box turtles, spotted turtles, giant box turtles, river turtles and Kohn's turtles. Box turtles feed on insects, mushrooms and meat while spotted turtles manage to thrive on insects, snails, crustaceans, spiders, a small amount of vegetables and meat. River turtles and Kohn's turtles are satisfied with regular meals of snails, insects and crayfish. You are perfectly familiar with Kohn's turtles—they are the same cute little fellows with hand-painted backs that you saw in the souvenir shop last week.

Remember, it is unfair to condemn all mankind for the sins of a few. It is equally unjust to condemn all of the inhabitants of the "shell-backed kingdom" simply because they have a disreputable relative or two.

POLLUTION

(Continued from Page 5)

that only approximately 732,000 Floridians reside in areas served by public sewage and of those only about one-third are connected to some type of treatment works. In other words, about 12 per cent of the State's urban residents are connected to modern sewage treatment facilities and only eight per cent of the state's total population is connected to any treatment facility at all.

Pinellas county is typical of scores of other Florida counties in that it is faced with a serious pollution problem in this post-war era. Aroused by the epidemic threat of water pollution, Pinellas County Commissioner Andrew E. Potter recently proposed a U. S. Army Engineer survey of county-wide water control. No doubt the survey will show that all bay waters surrounding the Pinellas peninsula are actively polluted. This situation is a very real threat from the viewpoint of swimming, fish industry and the domestic water systems of the county.

Costs will be high in Pinellas county, as well as in other counties, to correct the situation but it will be more economical to correct them at once rather than wait for them to be seriously aggravated. The essence of the control plan should be complete elimination of all toilet septic tanks in the area, proper collection and treatment of sewer system sewage, and a storage program which will collect water during the heavy rainfall period and allow it to flow during the dry season. St. Petersburg is typical of too many other cities. There 22,000 residences have sewer service while 7,000 other homes, covering two-thirds of the city's area must rely on septic tanks which are largely non-functioning during heavy rainfall periods.

Winter Haven is another locality that is learning the hard way that raw sewage cannot be dumped into lakes without contaminating them. The city has been informed that many of her 100 lakes are unusable because of the situation resulting from the fact that less than a third of the city has sewer connections.

Don't overlook the fact that untreated domestic sewage poured into the streams is usually most objectionable as a health menace. Often times it is less destructive of biological values unless the volume of

waste is so great that as it decays, its oxygen consumption prevents the life in the water from receiving its normal supply of that essential element. When this happens, fish and all other living things dependent upon oxygen quickly smother. When more organic waste is poured into a stream than can be oxydized, it forms a bottom sludge of slowly decaying material that may effectively block the upstream movement of migrating fish.

Did You Know-

What is said to be the largest duck to be taken in Minnesota in 25 years recently fell to the gun of Kenneth Peterson of Minneapolis. It was a Mallard Drake weighing over six lbs.

The heart of an insect is a slender tube suspended along the midline of the back, close to the dorsal wall of the body.

More than 300,000,000 pounds of fish and shellfish are landed annually at East Coast ports from Rhode Island to Virginia.

The polar bear is such a good swimmer that they have been seen over 200 miles from land in the open ocean.

The noise made by the ostrich is a roar, and at a distance it cannot be distinguished from that of a lion.

An elephant's trunk contains 40,000 muscles.

Silt dumped into the stream by flood waters that are produced by heavy rains is usually graded and sorted by water. The heavier particles are dropped nearer to the source of their origin while the finer particles remain suspended in the water and are carried for long distances to adversely affect the water many miles from the point where they entered the stream. Silt destroys fish spawning beds by blanketing them with an over-all envelope of mud, filling in the gravel beds or smothering all of the eggs and microscopic life that may be found on the bottom of a normal stream. In addition, silt destroys submerged aquatic vegetation—a vegetation that may serve as food for waterfowl and the small aquatic life on which fish feed. The state's growing phosphate ore mining industry is one source of the silt hazard.

However, it is interesting to know that the phosphate industry has underwritten a research program involving the allocation of \$19,000 to study practical means of abating present pollution of the Peace and Alafia River basins. The value of the total quantity of Florida phosphate rock sold and used in 1945 was in excess of \$16,000,000. Thus, the research program, which at first appears to be costly, amounts to slightly more than one-tenth of one per cent of the value of the industry's annual production.

Efforts also are being made to interest Florida's gigantic citrus processing industry in instigating research of proper treatment of their wastes. Reports reveal that citrus canning production jumped from 10,000 cases in 1921-22, to 48,845,000 cases of 24 No. 2 cans in 1945-46. Let it be assumed that the citrus canning waste volume approximates 50 gallons per case. This unit volume was obtained by averaging actual measurements at several typical installations, and it has been estimated that the volume of liquid waste produced annually by citrus fruit canners approaches the staggering total of 244,000,000 gallons. Then too, the State Chamber of Commerce reports that approximately 525 new industries have located in Florida since 1944, and much of this industrial growth naturally has resulted in the discharge of ever-increasing volumes of waste into the surface and underground waters in the state.

As a direct result of the daily discharge of millions of gallons of raw or inadequately treated domestic sewage and trade wastes into natural bodies of water, 139,478 acres, or 232 square miles, of commercial shellfish growing beds have been condemned by the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering of the Florida State Board of Health. In many of these areas, shellfish are no longer to be found because of the pollution densities. It is easy to judge the effect of pollution of shellfish areas by considering the value of the industry to the economy of the State. The average yearly income of the crabmeat processing industry is \$700,000; the value of the oyster, scallop and clam harvest is in the annual million dollar class. The industry has estimated that opening the condemned areas of Pensacola Bay alone would increase the harvest to something like \$4,000,000.

Other figures supplied by the State

Chamber of Commerce indicate that the tourist expenditure in the state is between \$650,000,000 and \$700,000,000 a year. It may be safely estimated that 50 to 60 per cent of these funds are spent for recreation in some form or other. Yet, there are thousands upon thousands of acres of Florida water so polluted as to render them unfit for swimming, safe boating, fishing and other recreational activities.

A lengthy survey just completed by John F. Dequine, chief fisheries biologist for the state game and fresh water fish commission is extremely interesting. Based on a one per cent survey, it indicates that the resident-licensed fisherman provided a \$56,000,000 business in the state from July 1, 1946 until June 30, 1947. These Floridians caught 28,000,000 pounds of fresh water fish during that period. Studies made by the Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed that fishermen spend two dollars for every pound of fish they catch. This money, Dequine explains, is spent for licenses, tackle, boat rental, lodging, meals, bait, guides and travel. On this basis, it is assumed that the army of licensed resident and non-resident fishermen, along with the ones who can fish in their home counties without procuring licenses, spend approximately 100 million dollars in this state annually.

Tests completed by Dequine in various sections of the state have shown conclusively that the sewage from municipalities, slaughter houses, paper mills, canning plants and other industries that process raw materials are diminishing the oxygen supply in offended waters and ultimately asphyxiating fresh water fish of inestimable value. Other of his tests disclose that fish are being killed from toxic poisoning as the result of wholesale burying of muck lands and peaty soil especially in the Everglades section. These types of land have a high content of sulphurous materials that change to hydrogen sulphide when burned. When the ashes are washes into lakes or streams by heavy rains, it results in almost instant death for the fresh water fish.

Dequine's intensive studies of the pollution problem also have revealed that in many instances it can result in wrecking real estate values. Along the Eleven Mile Creek in Escambia county, he discovered that pollution of the stream by the paper mill industry, compelled the owners of scores



Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Westley, of Tallahassee, caught more than enough meat for dinner when they went fishing in the Dead River.

Reward Is Posted for Game Warden Attacker

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has posted a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who fired two loads of buckshot into the home of Wildlife Officer L. A. Stokes of Callahan.

District Chief Wildlife Officer Lester Mickell said the blasts, one of which narrowly missed Stokes' small son, presumably were fired out of malice over a game law arrest.

Second District Commissioner Lester Varn of Jacksonville, who reported the incident when the board met January 5 described it as "the most vengeful attack ever made on a wildlife officer."

of beautiful homes to abandon them. The once beautiful creek, has turned dark from pollution. No longer are there any fish in the waters—no longer can the residents and their children enjoy swimming in the stream. The section has been abandoned—marsh gas bubbles up from the dark waters issuing a nauseating stench. This situation is just another example of the destruction and desolation that eventually results from pollution.

Looking at the balance sheet from another viewpoint, who can estimate the dollar and cents value of the hazard to the health of the citizens of the state, and to the visitors who

Catfish Nets Okehed For Lake Okeechobee And St. Johns River

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, at a meeting here Jan. 26, agreed to permit the netting of catfish and other rough fish on Lake Okeechobee and the upper St. Johns River during a special 30-day experimental period.

The netting will be carried out under the strict supervision of the commission's officers and biologists.

Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine expressed belief that "limited and supervised" netting of rough fish in the two waters would not prove harmful to sports fishing.

The commission made the temporary concession after listening to proposals of State Representatives W. J. Hendry, of Okeechobee, and O. H. Morris, of Welaka, who appeared in behalf of the commercial fishermen in the affected areas. Both men declared that permission to net catfish and other rough fish would "provide a badly needed economic balance for the fishermen and their families."

The commission members emphasized that their action was taken "solely for experimental purposes" to help them decide if the netting of rough fish is harmful to sports fishing.

The commission's temporary action will permit the use of pound nets in Lake Okeechobee and in specified shad and herring grounds in the upper St. Johns River from the Volusia Bar north. It stipulates that the fishermen must return to the waters "alive and unharmed" all game fish caught in their nets.

arrive in Florida with the blind assurance that such conditions do not exist in this modern age? Don't overlook the fact that one minor epidemic of any of the filth-borne diseases could dissuade a tremendous number of visitors from coming to Florida for many years to come.

Unless we whip our pollution problems, we will impede the progress of industry and retard the development of Florida. It is time that we present the factual data to the offending as well as the offended parties. It is time that we recognize that pollution is Florida's Fifth Column!



HUNTIN' season is just a memory again and all of us Witherspoons have greased and oiled our guns and put 'em away for another year. . . . For the next 365 days we'll just have to content ourselves with talkin' about huntin' deer, turkey and a bear or two . . . However, we know one hunter that probably don't care to even hear huntin' mentioned on account of a bad case of buck fever he suffered while deer huntin' in Martin county. Ridin' horseback, he was totin' a nice lookin' lever action Winchester rifle when all of a sudden, he jumped a big 10-point buck. He went into quick action all right—the only trouble bein' that he pumped out every doggone shell without ever so much as firin' a single shot. His huntin' companions gave him a big horse-laugh and we'll bet that lucky buck deer gave him a snicker or two in the bargain.

The other day a fellow told us about a hunter at Winter Haven that had an awful time gettin' ready for huntin' on Sunday. He couldn't decide whether to go to church or go huntin' and he finally started flippin' a coin to get the answer. Heads, and he'd go to church. Tails, and the huntin' trip was on. Darned if he didn't have to flip that coin 11 times before he could conscientiously start out with his shotgun. . . .

A. D. Tyner and his son, Earl, hardware merchants at Largo, went deer huntin' in Volusia county and returned home with some game they hadn't exactly figgered on. Understand they got their deer all right—two that weighed 140 pounds apiece—but, darned if they didn't catch two big armadillos in the bargain. The hardware men ate their venison and settled by displaying the armadillos in their store window. . . .

Bill Lowe, of Orlando, went squirrel huntin' and came home with a big coral snake instead. The reptile measured three feet, three inches—which accordin' to the books is about as big as they ever come. . . .

Accordin' to all reports, rattlesnakes were too darn plentiful to suit a lot of hunters this season. As a result, there was sheer tragedy for a St. Petersburg hunter. A six-foot rattler struck him while he was huntin' near Largo and he died at a Clearwater hospital although he was given every assistance known to medical science. . . .

Al Zaebst, the African big game hunter from Ocala, thought he knew all the answers about unexpected situations until he made a fishin' trip to Orange Lake. Darned if he didn't catch a three-pound bass that had an old nylon line draped around it as the result of a successful tussle it had one time with another angler. Funny thing was, the line had cut into the fish's back and belly and had grown in a half inch deep. . . .

Down at Ft. Myers, Wildlife Officer Walter Whitehead went out to a marsh to investigate reports that a big bear was roamin' around. Instead of runnin' into the bear, he picked up a hunter that had killed a marsh hen out of season. The hunter was fined fifty bucks and the judge sent the fowl to Lee Memorial Hospital where it could be eaten by a few of the sick folks. So Whitehead's trip was a success after all. . . .

A deer that went huntin' for hunters was reported on the Mossy-head-Niceville Highway near DeFuniak Springs. What's more, the eight-point buck succeeded. He crashed into the side of a big truck and was instantly killed.

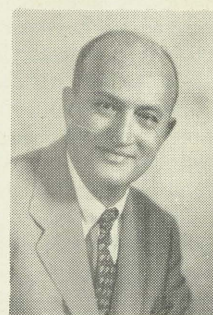
Corbett Is Chosen Commission Head At Annual Election

J. W. Corbett of Ft. Pierce has been elected chairman of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

A member of the commission since 1941, Corbett was elected by unanimous vote at the board's annual reorganization meeting January 5. The new chairman, who represents the Fourth conservation district, succeeds Lester Varn of Jacksonville.



J. W. Corbett



Lester Varn

When he retired from the chair Varn was praised in a resolution for his "fine assistance and leadership" during the past year.

Said the resolution:

'WHEREAS, Lester Varn has been the Chairman of this body for the past year. Under his leadership great progress has been made in the management and conservation of the wildlife of the State of Florida. There has been a vast expansion in the personnel and the activities of this Commission. A greater interest is being taken generally by the public all over Florida in our administration of the affairs committed to our jurisdiction. More and more of our citizens are becoming conscious of the value of our game and fresh water fish, and are helping to conserve and protect same, and

WHEREAS, our retiring Chairman by his untiring efforts has done much to add to the prestige of this Commission, and is entitled to a vote of thanks by the sportsmen of our Great State for a job well done.

In the retirement of Lester Varn as Chairman of this Commission, it is, therefore, resolved that we do hereby extend to him our appreciation of his assistance and leadership and commend the progress made under his administration as an inspiration to all future Chairman of this Commission."



These hunters, J. H. Rauth, H. H. Floyd and Douglas Baker, all of Vero Beach, smiled with justification when this picture was taken after a successful day's bird hunting along Kings Highway not far from their home.

Commission Releases 450 White-tail Deer

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission released 450 deer in Florida forests last month.

Arriving on trucks from a game farm at Jackson, Wisconsin, the first shipment of 65 white-tails was released in the Collier County Game Preserve near Bonita Springs.

All of the deer were purchased by the commission during recent months at approximately \$90 a head and will be used to "build up the supply" throughout the state.

Ten deer scheduled for release in Levy county, were supplied by two erring hunters as the result of a unique decision handed down last summer by County Judge H. S. Wilson. After finding the hunters guilty of killing two fawn during a closed season, the judge gave them their choice of going to jail or buying 10 deer to replace the two they had killed. They agreed to buy the deer.

The remainder of the deer were released as follows: 30 on the commission's 50,000-acre Palm Beach country tract, a future public hunting ground; 110 in the Fifth district—80 of these in Orange and Osceola counties; 60 to the Withlacoochee Game Reserve—20 on the Citrus County side, and 40 on the Hernando county side; 30 to be distributed in Alachua, Bradford and Clay counties; 20 in the Myakka State

March Closed Season On Florida Bass Eliminated This Year

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has removed the statewide closed season on black bass.

At a meeting here January 26 the commission abolished the present March closed season on bass but retained an April and May closed season on all fresh water fishing in 10 Northwest Florida Counties.

The counties closed are Jefferson, Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, Bay, Leon, Gadsden, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty.

The action, unanimously approved by conservation club representatives at the meeting, was recommended by Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine.

Dequine told the commission that an 18-month survey of the state's fresh waters had convinced him there was "no need for any closed season on bass and bream in Florida."

Dequine also recommended that the 12 inch legal limit be eliminated, but the commission voted to retain it until another year of survey work had been done in Florida waters.

The commission also voted to keep the present bag limit of eight bass per day.

Park; 10 in Apalachicola Forest near Marianna; and 20 in Choctawhatchee National Forest in northwest Florida.

High Court Upholds Commission's Right To Control Netting

The State Supreme Court has upheld the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's right to prohibit seining on Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River.

In a unanimous opinion delivered Jan. 6 the high tribunal ruled that all four of the 1947 legislative acts, designed to permit commercial netting in the disputed waters, were unconstitutional.

The opinion written by Justice Alto Adams said, "The question is squarely presented—whether the Legislature can oust the Constitutional Commission from control over fresh water fish in Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River by making a legislative finding that waters are salt. We do not overlook the contention that the Legislature has from time immemorial classified the waters of the State either salt or fresh; that when this amendment (creating the commission) was adopted certain of these waters were actually classed as salt water. The constitutional amendment expressly provides, however, that all existing laws inconsistent herewith shall no longer remain in force and effect."

In a companion opinion, the high court reversed a decision of a Putnam county court which upheld the fishermen and questioned the validity of the fresh water agency.

Tuesday's decision brought to a close a year-old dispute between the commission and commercial fishing interests.

Ben C. Morgan, game and fish commission director, termed the supreme court decision a "vindication of the commission's belief in what the people of Florida wanted" when they adopted the game amendment.

The controversy between the commission and the fishing interests began in October 1946 after the agency closed Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River to commercial fishing. Later, the 1947 legislature passed three acts designed to place the waters under the jurisdiction of the salt-water State Board of Conservation, and a fourth which exempted from punishment any fishermen charged with violating commission regulations on the two bodies.

Former Governor Doyle Carleton, Judge O. J. Reeves and commission attorney Earl Farr represented the game and fish commission in the bitterly-fought case.

W. A. Rainey, of DeLand, recently proved that deer can be killed in Volusia county when he bagged an eight-point buck at Lake Helen.



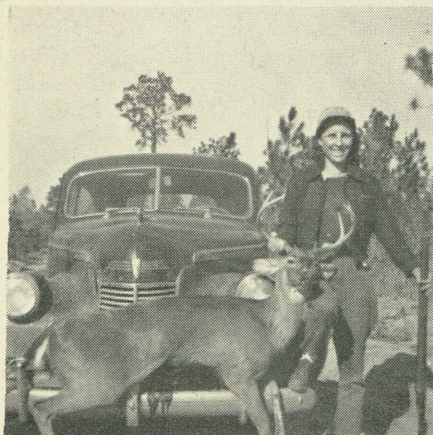
The three sportsmen above, T. D. Smith, J. P. Adair and Pat Ledger, needed but four hours to catch this stringer of 24 bass while fishing in Bronson Canal between Lakes Cypress and Kissimmee. The largest weighed six pounds.

Over 1,000 Deer Killed During Eglin Field Hunt

More than 1,000 deer were killed during this year's annual hunt on the vast Eglin Field Game Preserve.

A total 3,675 nimrods killed 1,011 buck deer during the 47-day hunt, which is conducted by U. S. Army officials in co-operation with the game commission.

Despite the record number of hunters, only 14 doe deer were killed, and only eight unclaimed buck deer were found in the forest by wildlife officers.



Mrs. Roy Anderson, of Pensacola, killed this 200-pound eight-point buck on Turtle Creek Road 234 in Northwest Florida. What's more, she succeeded in killing another eight-pointer earlier in the season.

Commission Biologist Begins Survey Work In Lake County Waters

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission began a "comprehensive" 30-day survey of fishing conditions in five central Florida lakes late last month.

John F. Duquaine, chief fisheries biologist for the agency, said the survey was being conducted in an effort to obtain scientific data on fish population in Lake Beauclair, Lake Dora, Lake Eustis, Lake Harris and Lake Griffin.

The five bodies were selected for the survey, the biologist said, because they were representative of other Florida lakes and are among the state's favorite fishing grounds.

Snakebitten Sportsman Treats Self and Lives

Paul Rasch, Punta Gorda sportsman, is alive today simply because he displayed extraordinary nerve after a rattlesnake struck him during a recent hunting trip.

Coolly, Rasch shot and killed the big reptile before he sat down and with his knife cut a hole, two and a half inches in diameter, around the fang marks slightly below his knee. After performing the painful operation, the victim applied a tourniquet above the knee to halt the venom from entering his system.

Later he was taken to a Punta Gorda hospital where physicians declared he has performed a "perfect operation."

Biologist's Findings May Help Settle Old Rancher-Hunter Feud

Findings made during the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's two-year quail investigation program in Charlotte County may "go a long way" toward ironing out a long-standing controversy between Florida's bird-hunters and cattlemen, says O. Earl Frye, chief wildlife biologist for the commission.

Frye said the two years of research on the 62,000-acre investigating area had convinced him that "limited" grazing and "controlled" burning not only failed to harm quail crops, but were "actually beneficial."

"For years sportsmen have believed cattle grazing was a sure way to ruin quail foods," Frye declared. "However, our studies have pretty well disproved this theory."

"In Charlotte County, we found that slough grass and partridge peas, South Florida's two choicest quail foods, thrived far better on winter-grazed areas than on ungrazed land," the chief biologist said.

Grazing during the winter and spring along with "careful" burning, he explained, removes wire-grass and other "rough" plant life from quail ranges and allows increased food-plant production.

The state biologist emphasized that his findings applied only to the pine flatwoods areas of South and West Florida. The theory, he said, probably would not hold true in the "forest and agricultural sections of North Florida."



L. A. Gee, of Cantonment, took time off from his duties at The Florida Pulp and Paper Company to kill this prize deer in the Choctawhatchee Forest. What's more, the 217-pound buck was the biggest deer killed in the Forest this season.



Stranded in the receding flood waters of the Glades "pot holes," bream and bass fingerling are making an easy dinner for thousands of water fowl.

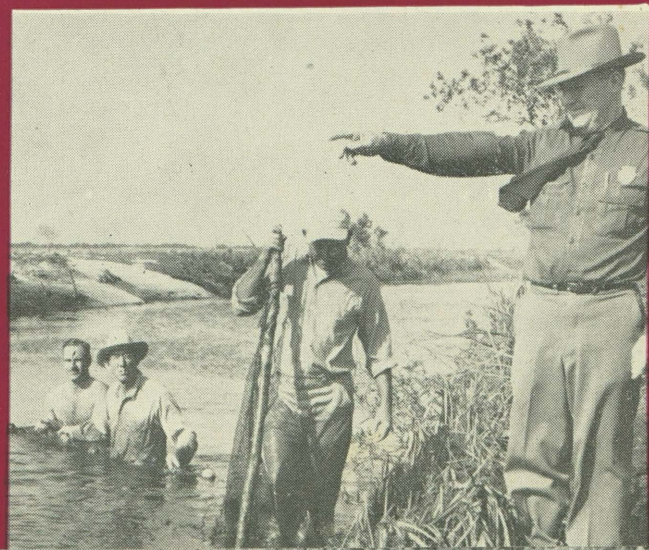
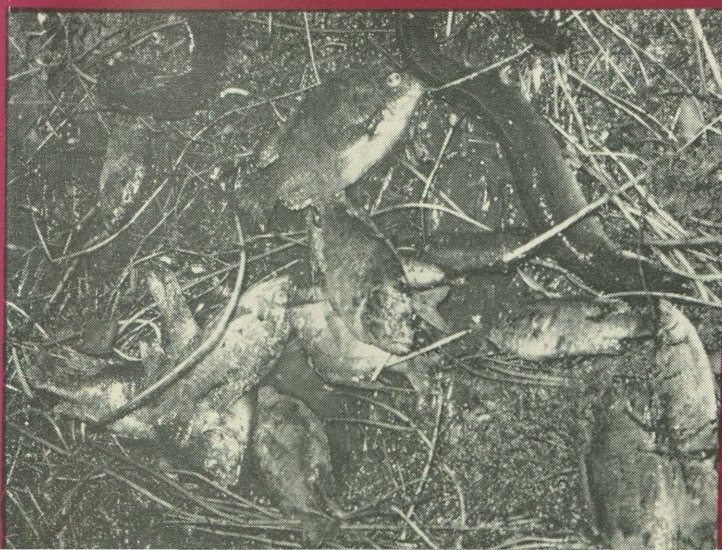
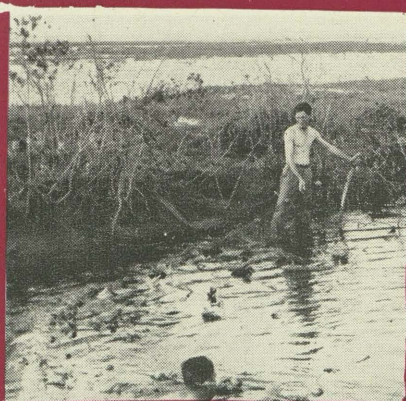
FISH RESCUE

A Picture Feature



One of the many duties of a Wild Life Officer is to rescue these fish that will die as the holes dry. (Above) Wild Life Officers separate the game fish from the rough fish. (Below) Chief Wild Life Officer, Curtis Wright, directs operations.

(Right) Wild Life Officers set a small stop net in one of the deeper holes; (below) help arrived a few days too late for these finny creatures.



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... THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER